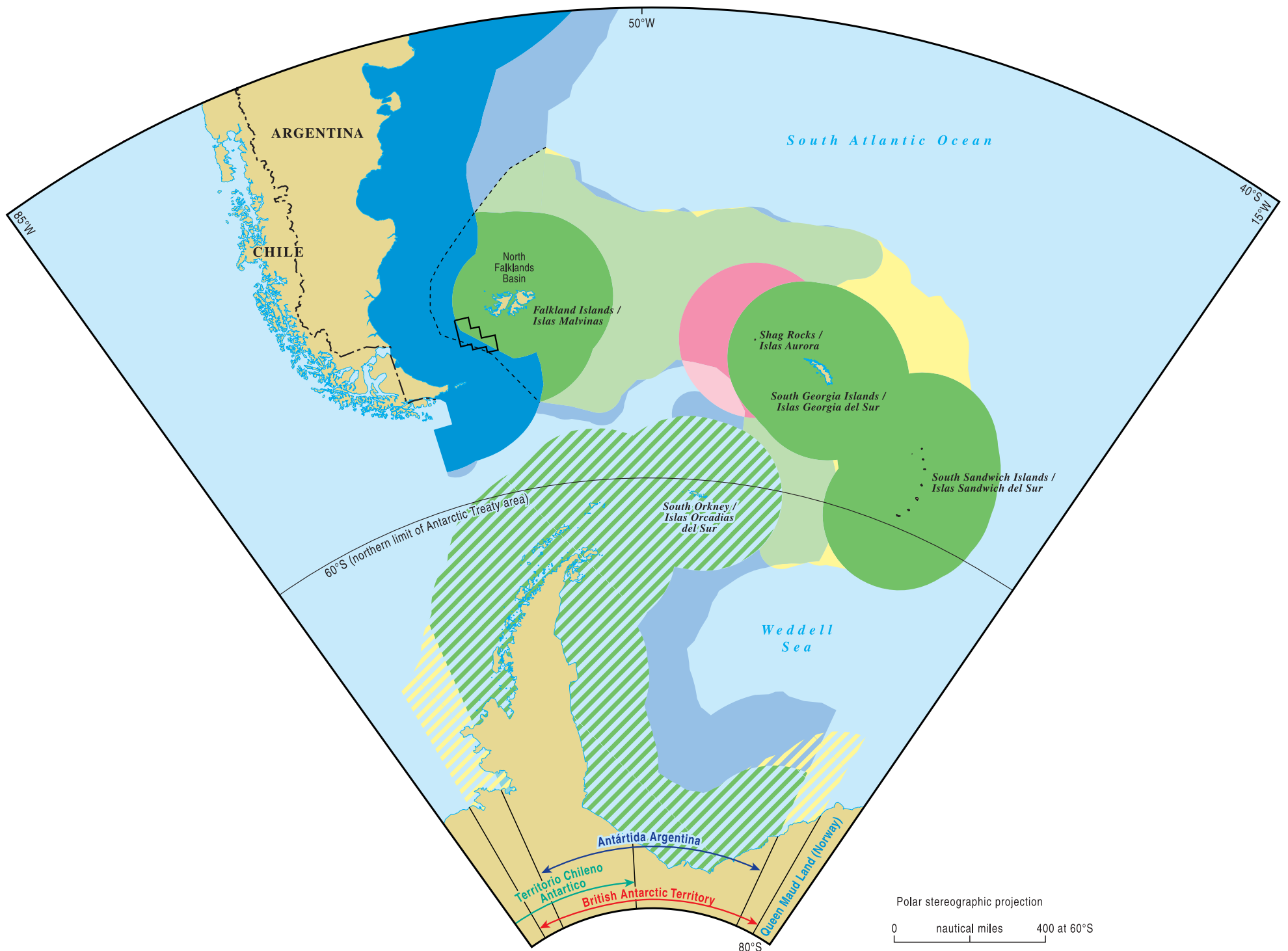













The competing claims of Argentina and the UK to sovereignty over the Falkland / Malvinas Islands are well known. The two states also claim sovereignty over South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands, the South Orkney Islands and a significant portion of the Antarctic continent - although claims south of 60° South are frozen under the terms of the 1959 Antarctic Treaty.

Sovereignty over these territories gives rise to jurisdiction over the marine resources of vast areas of the South Atlantic and Southern Oceans. Under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, coastal states may claim sovereign rights over the living and non-living resources of the sea and seabed in an exclusive economic zone extending up to 200 nautical miles from their coastal baselines. Where the physical continental margin extends beyond 200 nautical miles, the states also have rights over the resources of the seabed to the outer limit of the continental shelf (subject to certain constraints). The maps here illustrate the extent of the jurisdictional claims of Argentina and the UK and highlight the degree of overlap between them.



Key

-  Area within 200 nm of undisputed Argentina territory claimed as exclusive economic zone (EEZ) by Argentina; no current UK claim
-  Area within 200 nm of disputed islands claimed by both Argentina and UK (note 1)
-  Area of potential overlapping Argentina/UK claims within 200 nm of Antarctic territory (note 2)
-  Other areas of potential UK EEZ claims within 200 nm of Antarctic territory (note 2)
-  Area beyond 200 nm covered by Argentina submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) only
-  Area beyond 200 nm covered by UK submission to CLCS only
-  Area beyond 200 nm covered by both Argentina and UK submissions to CLCS
-  Area claimed as EEZ by Argentina but treated as high seas / UK continental shelf by UK (note 3)
-  Area claimed as EEZ by Argentina but treated as high seas / the Area by UK (note 3)
-  Median line between Argentina mainland and Falkland / Malvinas Islands
-  'Special Area' for coordinated Argentina - UK hydrocarbon activities (1995-2007) (note 4)

Notes

- 1) Beyond the territorial sea of the disputed islands Argentina claims EEZ rights, while the UK claims EEZ rights off South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and a fishery zone around the Falkland Islands.
- 2) Neither Argentina nor the UK has formally defined its rights in the waters within 200 nm of its claimed Antarctic territory. Argentina's submission to the CLCS used the same shading for waters within 200 nm of Antártida Argentina as it did for areas claimed as EEZ. In the context of the Antarctic Treaty, which prohibits new claims or enlargement of existing claims to territorial sovereignty in Antarctica, the UK has not yet made a submission to the CLCS concerning the outer continental shelf off its claimed Antarctic territories; however, it has reserved the right to do so in the future.
- 3) Argentina claims that the Islas Aurora (Shag Rocks in English), a cluster of rocky islets located 150 nm northwest of South Georgia, generate EEZ and continental shelf rights of their own. The UK believes that the islets are "rocks which cannot sustain human habitation or economic life of their own" and therefore do not generate continental shelf or EEZ rights under Article 121(3) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. However, most of the area claimed as EEZ by Argentina but not the UK falls within the area that the UK considers to be part of the continental shelf of the Falkland Islands/South Georgia.
- 4) In September 1995 the governments of Argentina and the UK signed a joint declaration on cooperation over offshore activities in the southwest Atlantic Ocean. Under the declaration a joint commission was established to oversee coordinated hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation activities in up to six 3,500 square kilometre areas, although only one area was defined in the declaration. No commercially exploitable resources were found in the defined area, and the declaration was unilaterally terminated by Argentina in 2007, an action which the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office described as "a backward step". The area of greatest current interest to oil and gas companies is the North Falklands Basin, located to the north of the Falkland / Malvinas islands, within the islands' EEZ.
- 5) For the sake of clarity, these map do not depict territorial sea limits or straight baselines. Argentina and the UK have both established straight baselines along the coastlines of the disputed South Atlantic islands. However, few of the two states' baseline segments coincide exactly. At small scales it is impossible to illustrate the differences in the two sets of baselines (and the resulting differences in territorial sea limits) with clarity.

